



Hatfield Regis Local History Society

President: William Gosling - Lord of the Manor

Old Thatched Cottages in Hatfield Heath

Buildings can show their antiquity by roof shapes and materials, one of which is thatch. Hatfield Heath has a number of thatched cottages and last year three happened to come on the market that are Grade II listed by English Heritage. They and others have been studied recently as an exercise by Pupils of the Hatfield Heath Community Primary School to record how these old properties have moved into the 20th Century. A walk through the Village to view these individual buildings, comparing their present day use to scenes in old photographs, contributed to their knowledge of history.

The oldest was **Beehive Cottage** opposite the village pump. An early 17th century timber framed building that originally is thought to have been an open hall house. Being on the main road it has a lengthy period as a shop during the late 1800's and early 1900's. The illustration shows it as Buttons Harness shop. The roof ridge was rethatched last year and a duck with ducklings was added as a ridge decoration. Date first listed 1983.

Tucked away up Mill Lane is the **Thatched Cottage**, an 18th century timber framed structure with some modern additions but still retaining the small windows. Originally two cottages it is now a single unit. The next cottage to the left was also thatched but has since had the thatch removed and is now tiled.

Heading out on Dunmow Road is **Clipped Hedge**. The original house is late 17th and early 18th century construction with reused 16th century window mullions used in the studding. A floor timber is dated 1726. In the early 20th century the house was extended with a room on the south side and becoming a well-known tea room. In the second half of the century an additional room to the rear has given it its current complex roof arrangement but the large window openings indicate the modern extensions. Francis Frith photographed the house in 1955 and 1960. The roofline has also been enlivened by a pair of foxes to match the recent owner's name.

The Wagon and Horses (now the Thatchers) is a public House C1580. Timber framed and white weatherboard with a hipped thatched roof. A former long wall jetty house of three bays plus a stack bay. The parlour was at the east end where there is a C17 extension bay. A flat roofed glazed porch an addition during C20. It was Grade II listed in 1985.

Manse Cottage a pair of cottages, numbers 2 and 4, formerly a small house, C16. Timber framed and plastered with thatched roof half hipped on each side. One story with attics, gable thatched dormers on north face of the roof. Two roof line stacks and one through cast hip. C19 small cased windows and open gable end and peg tile porch to number 4. Grade II listed in 1999.

Quentin Spear and Ivan Cooper



*Far top left: Clipped Hedge
Far bottom left: Manse Cottage
Top left: The Beehive
Bottom left: Wagon and Horses
Below: Mill Lane*

